

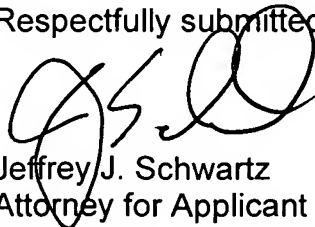
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10, 13, 15-17, and 20 are pending, and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the examiner states that independent Claims 1 and 13 recite a non-ceramic element selected from a group that includes ceramics—namely, glass fibers and silicone carbide. The examiner further states that Claim 8 is indefinite because it requires that the rigid facing be constructed of a group of materials other than that recited in Claim 1.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1 and 13, these claims are amended herein to delete "silicone carbide" as a member of the non-ceramic group. Applicant respectfully submits that "glass fibers" are properly included in this group, as such fibers are not generally considered *ceramic* fibers. See Exhibit A, Definition of "Ceramic Fibers". Claim 8 is cancelled herein.

For all these reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that all of the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore respectfully requested at an early date. If the Examiner believes that issues remain for discussion, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Schwartz', is written over the printed name and title.

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Page 9

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Exhibit A

Definition of "CERAMIC FIBERS"

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Ceramic Fibers

[<Back to Last Page>](#) [<Glossary Home>](#) [<Random Word>](#)

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Definition: Continuous fibers of metal oxides or refractory oxides which are resistant to high temperatures (2000-3000°F). This class of fibers includes alumina, beryllia, magnesia, thoria, zirconia, silicon carbide, quartz and high silica reinforcements. Although glass is also a ceramic material, glass fibers are not generally included. Ceramic fibers are produced by chemical vapor deposition, melt drawing, spinning and extrusion. Their main advantage is high strength and modulus.

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